

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 11, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-18, 44, and 46-48 have been cancelled. Claim 19 has been amended. New Claims 49-57 have been added. Claims 19-21 and 49-57 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,818,935 to Maa (hereinafter "Maa"). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,539 to Metz et al. (hereinafter "Metz"). Claims 9-11, 44 and 46-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,025,837 to Matthews III et al. (hereinafter "Matthews III"). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews III in view of Metz.

As noted above, 1-18, 44, and 46-48 have been cancelled. Of the above rejected claims, Claim 19 is the only remaining independent claim.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references, either taken singly or in any combination, teach or suggest all of the following limitations as now recited in amended Claim 19:

19. A method for decoding packetized program information to provide data content of a program, comprising the steps of:

identifying ancillary information in said packetized program information, said ancillary information including a plurality of partition tables having program specific data partitioned therein, a control table for acquiring and re-assembling the partitioned program specific data disposed in the plurality of partition tables, and information describing a multimedia image object associated with an image in said packetized program information, said multimedia object description information comprising,

(a) a location indicator identifying a location of a multimedia object for use in acquiring said multimedia object, and

(b) a type indicator identifying a multimedia object type for use in decoding said multimedia object; and

forming a program guide for display, using the tables;

acquiring and decoding said multimedia object using said multimedia object description information; and

formatting said multimedia object for display.

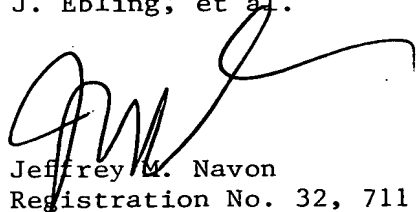
Remaining dependent Claims 20-21 depend from Claim 19 either directly or indirectly and, thus, include all of the limitations of Claim 19. Accordingly, Claims 20-21 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons as Claim 19. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

As noted above, new Claims 49-57 have been added. Applicants respectfully

assert that Claims 49-57 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references. For example, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest "partitioning program specific data into a plurality of partition tables; generating a control table for acquiring and re-assembling the program specific data disposed in the plurality of partition tables", as recited in new Claim 49.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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